

The Intelligencer

There was almost a panic yesterday in New York. The stock of the Richmond & Danville Railroad fell 80 points.

Many farmers in Fayette and Westmoreland counties, Pa., are selling out their lands, which are underlain by coking coal at high figures, and buying farms in Washington county and also in West Virginia at much lower prices.

President White of Cornell University, says that he will break up the practice of having it has to expel every class in the school. The New York Tribune says that this is the right sort of talk, a sentiment that will find general endorsement throughout the country.

Archibald Miller has an important duty to perform under the reassessment law just enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia. To him is delegated the selection of assessors—one assessor to each assessment district—and it is scarcely too much to say that the whole value of the proposed reassessment turns upon the fitness of the appointees to be selected by the Auditor.

The census report will not be completed for several months, the work on the specialities being very laborious. The last report was contained in 2,500 pages of printed matter. The census of 1880 will comprise 2,900 quarto pages. It is a very big thing in every respect and demonstrates to the world what a big people we are. The special subjects treated are thirty-two in number, including social statistics of classes, defective, delinquent and dependent classes, forest wealth, quarrying, orchard fruits, meat production, insurance, debts, wealth and taxation, etc., etc. The work of collecting facts has been done by 1,500 employees and 31,282 enumerators. Thirty thousand pages of facts; think of it! The first census report was contained in a volume of 1,470 pages and was issued in October, 1870. The contrast between that volume and the report which will appear in a few months will be startling.

The Cincinnati Gazette has an excellent 22d of February article upon the character of Washington in certain very important places of it. Among other forcible points presented were the following:

A great peril of republics is that a military chieftain will take advantage of his influence in the army, or of the gratitude of the people for military achievement, to make himself the political chief for life, either by a total subversion of the Constitution or by using his popularity and power to ride over its traditions and customs. No military chieftain ever had greater personal influence to carry out such subversion than Washington. No man did ever so successfully avoid such use of it.

Still in the position of unbounded popularity through his second Presidential term, having only to give the history of his life to be elected President successively, as he was elected, he might have held, without usurpation, and by the spontaneous will of this country, the Presidency for life. But he had the history of republics; he saw what such an example would lead to in future times, his sole political ambition was to render the most profitable service to his country, and he refused to deny the popular voice, and to make his second term the finality of his Presidency.

This high example established a tradition in our country which successive Presidents have revered as sacred. He who would break this tradition, and thus lose the respect of the people, would lose the respect of the nation, and would lose the respect of the world.

REAL ESTATE REASSESSMENT.

An Act that the People of West Virginia Shall Have to Endure.

The bill known as House bill number 223, passed the Senate yesterday. It provides for the reassessment of the value of all real estate within this State, and reads as follows:

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

Sec. 1. The Auditor shall appoint one commissioner for each assessment district for the purpose of assessing the value of the real estate of this State, who shall be a resident freholder of such district, and whose duty it shall be to re-assess the value of all real estate therein.

Sec. 2. Each commissioner so appointed shall, within thirty days after he is notified of his appointment, execute a bond, with surety, in the penalty of three thousand dollars, conditioned for the faithful performance of his duties, to be approved by the County Court or the President thereof, or by a circuit judge, and shall file the same with the Auditor of this State, who shall be the surety for the faithful performance of his duties, and that he will faithfully discharge the duties of his office to the best of his skill and judgment. The said bond and oath shall be filed in the office of the Clerk of the County Court who shall certify a copy thereof, within ten days after it is so filed, to the Auditor, and also furnish the Auditor the postoffice address of the commissioner.

If the said commissioner so appointed, shall fail to qualify and give bond, as hereinafter provided, the Auditor shall, in the event of his failure to do so, appoint a commissioner in his stead, and the same shall be the same as if the commissioner so appointed had qualified and given bond, and the Auditor shall, in the event of his failure to do so, appoint a commissioner in his stead, and the same shall be the same as if the commissioner so appointed had qualified and given bond.

Sec. 3. Each commissioner so appointed shall, within thirty days after he is notified of his appointment, execute a bond, with surety, in the penalty of three thousand dollars, conditioned for the faithful performance of his duties, to be approved by the County Court or the President thereof, or by a circuit judge, and shall file the same with the Auditor of this State, who shall be the surety for the faithful performance of his duties, and that he will faithfully discharge the duties of his office to the best of his skill and judgment. The said bond and oath shall be filed in the office of the Clerk of the County Court who shall certify a copy thereof, within ten days after it is so filed, to the Auditor, and also furnish the Auditor the postoffice address of the commissioner.

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WASHINGTON NEWS.

NEBRASKA'S 'CONTINGENT MEMBER'.

To be Admitted "in Extremis"—Our New Party—The Status of Tariff Legislation—The Effect of Amendments to the Postoffice Appropriation Bill—Capital Notes.

Special Dispatch to the Intelligencer. WASHINGTON, February 23.—Some time ago a sub-committee of the House on Judiciary reported to the full committee in favor of admitting Mr. Majors as an additional member of Congress from Nebraska. The committee did not act at once on the matter under consideration as it desired to hear from Mr. Hammond, (Democrat) who had a minority report upon the same case.

Some days since Mr. Hammond submitted an argument against the admission of Mr. Majors on the ground that the evidence of the correctness of the census of 1870 was not conclusive. He further asserted that the State census of 1872 agreed with the federal census of 1870, which, if true, would have completely settled the petitioner's case. Strangely enough no documents could be found, either in evidence or in the public records or libraries of Nebraska to prove what that census was. In consideration of this state of affairs the committee laid aside the case upon this subject. It has been ascertained that no census was taken by the State, either in 1871, 1872 or 1873, and that therefore there is no impeachment of the testimony, which proves that Nebraska had in 1870 60,000 more population than the Federal census of that year indicated. The committee will, therefore, in a few days, report in favor of admitting Mr. Majors, who for two successive Congresses has posed as the "contingent member" from Nebraska.

POSTOFFICE APPROPRIATIONS. The Features of the Amendments Made to the Postoffice Bill. Special Dispatch to the Intelligencer. WASHINGTON, February 23.—The House passed the day in considering, in Committee of the Whole, the Postoffice appropriation bill. The result of their labors was the adoption of an amendment which, if it becomes a law, will increase the expense of the Star service about \$1,500,000 or \$2,000,000. It will exclude many bidders who now bid for routes, and remove the protection which is now provided for sub-contractors.

A surprising amount of ignorance of the operations of the star mail service was displayed in today's discussion. Mr. Holman yesterday introduced an amendment providing that whenever a contractor shall make a sub-contract for any sum less than his annual pay the government shall take away his contract and make a new one with the sub-contractor at the annual pay, which he was receiving.

As has been repeatedly shown, the operations of the star mail service were confined to less than 200 routes. These were long and very costly in the States and Territories west of the Mississippi. But there are 10,000 Star routes, and nine-tenths of them are short ones. The annual pay for the short routes ranges from \$100 to \$1,500 per annum.

There are several contractors in this city who make a regular business of bidders for these short routes. Their bids are much lower than those submitted by the men who live on the routes. The Postmaster General says their bids average 20 per cent. lower. Having received the routes they sublet them sometimes at a loss, but generally at a small gain, and on several hundred routes they succeed in getting enough money to make a fair living.

They all carry their service and seldom fail, for a failure on a single route would force them out of the business. These are the men whom Messrs. Upson, of Texas, Page, of California, and others who were loudest in the support of the big contractors in the last Congress in 1879, are now denouncing as a ring. The Holman amendment was adopted in the committee by a vote of 99 to 82.

NEW NAVY.

The Committee Recommends a Modest but Substantial Armada.

Special Dispatch to the Intelligencer. WASHINGTON, February 23.—As I telegraphed a day or two since, from what I could ascertain outside of the Committee Room, the Committee on Naval Affairs would confine itself to the very modest demand of eight or ten millions for a new Navy, instead of going to the extent recommended by the Advisory Board.

The committee finished its report today, and the chairman, Messrs. Tallot, Davis, of New Jersey, and Thomas and Harrison were directed to draft the bill. The bill will provide for the construction of two first-rate steel cruisers, to cost \$1,500,000; four second-rate cruisers, to cost \$5,000,000; four torpedo boats, to cost \$182,000; four harbor torpedo boats, to cost \$100,000; and one ram, to cost \$500,000. The committee will endeavor to report to the House to-morrow.

RAILROAD ELECTION.

The Board of Directors of the New Ohio & West Virginia R.R.

TOLSON, February 23.—The following persons were elected directors to-day of the consolidated road known as the Ohio Central & Atlantic & North-western, extending from this place to the Ohio river at Point Pleasant, and thence via the Kanawha Valley to a connection with the Richmond & Alleghany road—viz: Hon. Joseph S. Miller, of Wheeling; West Virginia; Gen. Thomas Ewing, of Lancaster, Ohio; Gov. Foster, of Columbus, Ohio; George I. Seney and John T. Martin, of Brooklyn; T. O. French and Nelson Robinson, of New York; D. P. Eells, of Cleveland; and C. S. Price, of Lima, Ohio. A meeting of directors was called in New York for March 1.

Warring Railroads.

CHICAGO, February 23.—The Rock Island, Northwestern and Chicago, Burlington & Quincy roads are each making a spirited fight for the freight business to Des Moines, Iowa, which has been cut from 35 cents to 30 cents for first class and 25 cents to 19 cents for special. The Northwestern started the cut in retaliation for the Rock Island's alleged invasion of its territory.

No Wonder He Broke Down.

CINCINNATI, February 23.—Jacob White, who has been on trial for some time for the murder of his wife, September 30th last, by the use of strychnine, was last night found guilty of murder in the first degree. He broke down under the verdict, and was led from the court room in tears.

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INTER-STATE COMMERCE.

Arguments Before the Committee on Representative Reagan's Bill.

Special Dispatch to the Intelligencer. WASHINGTON, February 23.—The Reagan bill was today discussed before the House Commerce Committee by Mr. Charles S. Smith, Chairman of the New York Commercial Convention. He gave facts and figures in support of the bill, and was followed by Mr. White in the same line of argument, which was an arraignment of railroad monopolists in general. He advocated the establishment of a governmental department for the control of railroads.

D. D. Hughes, President of the Grand Rapids & Indiana railroad; E. P. Alexander, Vice-President of the Louisville & Nashville road; Emory Storr, Gov. McCook, Jackson S. Schull, T. B. Turner, D. C. Robbins, George Wilson, Ambrose Snow, A. B. Miller and Josiah T. White representing the commercial organization, of New York; S. C. Thompson, of Baltimore; C. M. Baring, of Minneapolis; D. B. Henderson, of Dubuque; Representative Lord, of Michigan; Mr. Sellers, Jeremiah Wilson, Mr. Harris, of Virginia; Mr. Rich, of Michigan, representatives of the New York and National Boards of Trade, the National Grange and other organizations were present; some of them to urge the justice of the Reagan bill and to show up the alleged curbs of railroad monopolies and to pray for relief. The Committee had a further meeting to-night and heard an argument from Mr. Thurber, who spoke strongly against the pooling system, which, he said, prevented all rightful competition. There is little doubt but that a majority of the Committee are in favor of Reagan's bill.

TARIFF TALK.

The Iron and Steel Men Determined to Accomplish Something.

Special Dispatch to the Intelligencer. WASHINGTON, February 23.—The gentlemen who are here from Youngstown and Pittsburgh to back the McKinley iron and steel bill, are determined to have some measure of the kind passed, but will move cautiously, and will present a modified bill if there is any prospect of a failure of the present iron and steel bill.

The iron and steel men, who are here, are determined at least to enunciate the Treasury Department in the tariff matter, by depriving it of that baneful power, called the discretion of the Secretary, which too often leans in the direction of the importers and results in rulings totally opposed to the design of Congress in adopting the present schedule.

NATIONAL NOTES.

Gossip at the Capital—Current Comment and News.

WASHINGTON, February 23.—Mr. Van Wyck has introduced a bill in the Senate, the object of which is to compel railroads to pay State taxes on unpaid taxes donated to them by the government. One condition of the land grants is that railroads shall pay all costs of surveying lands. Railroad companies hold lands throughout the west which they do not yet survey and patented, and the count's have held that States can not tax these lands because the United States still holds an interest in them by reason of the fact that the lands might revert to the government through a failure of the railroads to comply with these conditions. It is claimed that railroads leave lands unpaid to avoid taxation and Mr. Van Wyck's bill releases the lands from the tax. The bill proceeds against these lands for the collection of all taxes and interest in equity of the general government. It is thought this will encourage the States to collect these taxes.

The Senate Naval Committee today appointed Messrs. Harris, Thomas and Talbot a sub-committee to draft a bill for the reorganization of the navy, and incorporating a provision hitherto discussed by the committee and Advisory Board and agreed upon by the Senate. The bill would increase a half million dollars for the construction of seven or eight first-class vessels of different styles.

The President nominated Colonel Rufus Ingalls, Assistant Quartermaster General, Postmaster: Thomas Carlisle, Pierce City, Mo.; Samuel L. Grover, Marietta, Ga.; Benjamin Burton, Geneva, Ill.; Ernest Funk, Ontario, Wis.

The Senate Naval Committee agreed today favorably to the nomination of Theodore Wilson, of New York, for Chief of the Bureau of Naval Construction.

House Committee on Naval Affairs has been holding a hearing on a bill for the construction of a new Navy. The committee will report to the House to-morrow.

The House Committee on private land claims will report for passage a bill providing for the issuance of land scrip to Myra Clark Gaines, in lieu of about 37,000 acres of land in Louisiana, the title to which has been judicially confirmed to other parties.

A delegation from the New York Chamber of Commerce appeared before the Senate Finance Committee in relation to the so-called Sherman bill, to facilitate the decisions of controverted questions in revenue cases by referring such questions to the Court of Claims, with the right to appeal to the Supreme Court. The delegation claimed that the transfer of such suits to the Court of Claims would deprive importers of their right of trial by jury, and would be attended by a long delay. The recovery of duties unless fully exacted from them, as now occurs under the existing law. They urged the adoption of a measure providing for the establishment of a court of claims, which would be better equipped to handle the duties.

The National Homeopathic Hospital management has made a beginning by renting a building for present use. Postmaster General Howe decided that the "stamp frank" is not a "legal frank," and the written name of Congressmen must be on franked matter.

THE TWO CONFESSIONS.

ABOUT THE ASHLAND HORROR.

George Ellis Makes a Second Confession Which Clears Craft and Neal of the Crime, Corroborating an Interview Appearing in the "Intelligencer."

The INTELLIGENCER on the 13th of the present month published an interview had with Detective A. W. Burnett, of Charleston, on the Ashland murder horror, in which Mr. Burnett expressed the opinion that Ellis' confession implicating himself and Craft and Neal with the horrible deed was totally false and highly improbable. The large reward offered for the apprehension of the murderers was a strong incentive to amateur detectives and mercenary persons to at once go on the war path for clues, suspicions and pointers. Ellis dropped a careless remark about two persons whom he heard express lustful desires in connection with two of the victims of the crime. Parties animated with a longing for the big reward money caught up this remark of Ellis' and in their own minds are supposed to have fixed the plot by which they put a bogus confession in the hands of Ellis, and by threats and intimidation compelled him to stick by it.

Mr. Burnett, in his interview with the INTELLIGENCER reporter, besides maintaining that Ellis was bulldozed into the first confession he made, went on to show in a logical and conclusive manner that Ellis' statement was not supported by actual occurrences and facts, and that it bristled with glaring inconsistencies. He also remarked that his (Ellis') wife knew he confessed to a time of falsehoods, and implored him to tell the whole truth without fear of the consequences. Mr. Burnett also expressed the opinion that the real criminals were two men who were taken in the hands before three o'clock. He said that named Bill Dyerly. The heavy trial and unusual procedures which Mr. Burnett claims characterized the same, seem to give some color to his belief that the parties convicted in the Ashland case were not the real criminals, and when taken in connection with the second confession of Ellis, which is taken from yesterday's ENQUIRER and printed below. On the whole it forms an interesting chapter in the criminal history of the country.

STARTLING.

Another Phase of the Ashland Tragedy. Ellis' Second Confession.

LEXINGTON, Ky., February 22.—George Ellis, convicted by his own confession of participation in the Ashland murder, makes the following statement to the Cincinnati ENQUIRER:

In the first place, he was at Powell's store, and Powell asked him if he had known anything of the affair. He said he did not. "I said: 'I know of some strange points that might help to work it up.' Powell said: 'Come and go with me, and we will find out about it.' We went down town and met Hefflin. I told him what I had heard Craft and Neal say about wanting to have intercourse with them two girls."

Ellis then says he went around to a saloon where William Galt, the well-known keeper asked him to get drunk and to keep him there until he could get a word from Hefflin. He said he did not know. The bar-keeper told him there was a big reward for the person who did it, and he went several times, and tried to get him to tell something. He went home, and that night Hefflin came to his house and asked him to go over in town. Hefflin took him to the hotel, took him in a room where four or five persons were, and they told him they wanted him to tell it all over again.

Ellis claims that he does not remember what happened until the next morning, when he found he was in jail. He wanted to know what he had done, and he was told that he had confessed, and that they had evidence enough to hang all three of them. When he was brought back to Ashland, Campbell came on the boat and handled him. He told him he had confessed, and that he had evidence enough to hang all three of them. When he was brought back to Ashland, Campbell came on the boat and handled him. He told him he had confessed, and that he had evidence enough to hang all three of them.

Ellis says he knew nothing about the shooting, and that he was in jail. He wanted to know what he had done, and he was told that he had confessed, and that they had evidence enough to hang all three of them. When he was brought back to Ashland, Campbell came on the boat and handled him. He told him he had confessed, and that he had evidence enough to hang all three of them.

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CORPORATION CUNDRERS.

The Suit Against Standard Oil Company for Back Taxes.

HARRISBURG, Pa., February 23.—The suit of the State to recover taxes alleged to be due from the Standard Oil Company of Ohio came up before the court this morning. Deputy Attorney General Snodgrass presented a letter alleged to have been written to the Auditor-General's office in 1879, requesting the Standard Company to report. The defense objected to the letter on the ground that the person to whom it was sent was not in any manner connected with the company. Report filed with the Standard Company in the latter part of 1881 were read, and a voluminous correspondence between General Snodgrass and the Standard Company was read by the State's attorneys, in all of which the Standard Company denied that they were liable to taxation in this State.

An agreement as to the facts was next read, during which the counsel on both sides gave notice that they would make numerous objections. The Commonwealth rested its case after presenting the statement of Attorney-General Schell. Mr. Olmstead offered for the defense by presenting the appeal of the company from the Auditor-General's statement. He also read depositions taken by ex-Governor Hartranft, Insurance Commissioner Foster and Corporation Clerk Fraser, all of which tended to show that the Standard Company had never been taxed on the full amount of its capital stock. This, they state, has been the case during their connection with the Auditor-General's Department, which has covered a long term of years.

In the afternoon session Mr. E. Olmstead continued his statement, concluding by having read a paper by R. C. McMurtrie, and approved by Attorney-General Dyerly, setting forth that the act of April 21, 1878, passed by the Legislature of this State, provided that it did not hold for chartered corporations liable for tax by reason of the purchase of material or ware in this State. The argument was supported by Deputy Attorney-General Snodgrass a little before three o'clock. He contended that as a great portion of the company's capital was used in the prosecution of its business in this State, it should be taxed. He then endeavored to prove that their business was carried on in this State.

OH, LET HIM OFF.

The Court Martial of Mason for Shooting at Guilteau.

WASHINGTON, February 23.—In the Mason court-martial to-day Capt. McGilvray, of Sergeant Mason's company, testified that since Mason's confinement he had been returned to duty by witness as duty Sergeant.

Warden Crocker described the location of Guilteau's cell, and said the arrival of the troops could be witnessed from the cell window. Guilteau, when not reading or writing, spent some time in looking out of the window.

Mr. Bigelow, counsel for Mason, objected to the testimony as to Guilteau looking out of the window, unless the Judge Advocate engaged to show that this habit was not a Mason.

The Judge Advocate, after long private deliberation, sustained Mr. Bigelow's objection. The Judge Advocate then announced that he intended to prove that Mason knew of the habits of Guilteau.

Mason, rising from his chair, exclaimed, "I will clear that Judge," "I did not know."

The President of the Court peremptorily ordered Mason to be silent.

No martial facts were elicited to-day. The arrival of Mrs. Mason's wife and little boy seems to have had a soothing effect on him. He continues to complain bitterly of the food and quarters furnished him, and constantly urges the contrast between the treatment of his wife and himself by military authorities, and that accorded Guilteau by the civil officials at the jail.

Decision in Express Company Suit.

St. Louis, February 23.—A decision was rendered in the United States Court to-day in the case of the Southern Express Company vs. the Iron Mountain & Southern Railway. Other cases were amalgamated with this one. The decision was not only in favor of the Iron Mountain but the Little Rock Railroad Company, Missouri, Kansas & Texas in the suit of the Adams Express Company, the Atchafalaya, Topeka & Santa Fe Railroad and the Denver & Rio Grande Company. Judge Miller holds that courts of equity can compel railroad companies to provide for facilities of the express business and furnish cars for that purpose, and to afford equal facilities to all express companies actually engaged in that business. Only fair and reasonable rates shall be charged for carrying such matter and the agent in charge of it. The rate cannot be fixed in advance by the railroad company, neither can collections be made at the option of the railroad company. The court can regulate the compensation for such service after it has been performed and a railroad company can be protected by a bond to be given by the express company. The junction therefore granted in chambers is continued in force.

Texas Trifles.

St. Louis, February 23.—P. W. Norris, Postmaster and a leading merchant, at El Paso, Texas, was called out by his house night before last by a man who told him to go to his store to sell some goods. He went out but returned in a few minutes, and told his wife that the man had shot him, and died almost instantly.

An incendiary fire at Cisco, Texas, destroyed the store of D. P. Jordan. Loss \$18,000.

W. P. Black, of Woodcock, Pa., suicided at Austin, Texas, yesterday.

A railroad has been chartered to run from Leado on the rail of the Grand Eagle Lake & Co., on the South Side, exploded with a loud report, scattering debris in all directions, injuring three men, and completely demolishing the boiler shed. F. Myers and John Lovell, two of the men injured, escaped by slight wounds. The boiler was blown to bits, and the men were killed. The explosion was caused by the boiler being too old and the fire being too hot.

The Result of Jockeying.

CHICAGO, February 23.—During a race at the Chicago Driving Park last June, the jockey who was riding the mare Belle of Nelson, either by negligence or design, rode against the station Waverly, the result being that the latter was thrown and killed. Suit was brought for the value of the horse, which was placed at \$10,000, and after a trial of two days the jury yesterday returned a verdict for the plaintiff for \$1,500.

FIRE